

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph on page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with the present invention, a method and a device are provided for streaming a media file over a distributed information system to a client computer running a browser application. First, a server receives a request for a particular media file from the client computer. Then, the server provides a metafile; e.g., by dynamically generating the metafile or, alternatively, statically querying the metafile from a respective data storage, whereby said metafile contains information about the identification, location and format of the media file, and returns it back to the client computer. Advantageously, the server intercepts a download request for the actual media file and reinterprets the download request ~~in~~ into a request for receiving a corresponding metafile. Thus, instead of returning the requested media file, a metafile is returned that allows immediate streaming of the requested media file without the need of waiting for the download to be finished.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 17 with the following amended paragraph:

Compared to the aforementioned copending patent applications, the ~~letter~~ latter one delivers less granular client locality information but has the advantage of not requiring additional infrastructure.

Please replace the Abstract on page 24 with the following amended paragraph:

A method, device, and program product are provided for streaming a media file over a distributed information system to a client computer running a browser application. First, a server receives a request for a particular media file from the client computer. Then, the server dynamically generates a metafile, whereby said metafile contains information about the identification, location and format of the media file, and returns it back to the client computer. Advantageously, the server intercepts a download request for the actual media file and reinterprets the download request in into a request for receiving a corresponding metafile. Thus, instead of returning the requested media file, a metafile is returned that allows immediate streaming of the requested media file without the need of waiting for the download to be finished.

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